AMENDMENTS ADOPTED TO THE

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

FOR FY 2019

Full Committee Markup
House Appropriations Committee
May 16, 2018

Amendment offered

adopted V.V.

Rep. Robert Aderholt #1

Managers' Amendment to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2019

In the bill:

On page 2, line 14, strike "$46,287,000" and insert "$40,287,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On page 2, line 25, strike "$23,176,000" and insert "$17,176,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On page 3, line 1, strike "$22,301,000" and insert "16,301,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On page 6, Line 14, strike "$63,500,000" and insert "62,250,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On page 9, line 5, strike "$1,258,666,000" and insert "$1,259,916,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On page 11, line 16, strike "$915,012,000" and insert "$920,012,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On page 13, line 17, strike "$36,000,000" and insert "$37,000,000" (and conform the Committee Report accordingly).

On Page 98, line 12, strike "new unobligated balances remaining upon enactment shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section:" and insert "funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent:".

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

Sec ___. Paragraph (4) of section 1444(a) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221 (a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "No more than" and inserting the following: "For fiscal years ending on or before September 30, 2018, no more than";

(2) by striking "by an institution" and inserting "by an eligible institution under this section"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "For fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2018, the limitation specified in the preceding sentence shall not apply and 100 percent of such funds may be carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year."

In the report:

On page 4, under the "Behavioral Health" header, add the following at the end: "Further, the Committee encourages USDA to work in partnership with HHS to train employees at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to address farmer-specific mental health care to those working in agriculture who call into the Lifeline."

On page 5, after the paragraph entitled "Data Analytics," insert the following: "*Disaster Assistance Flexibility.*— In fiscal years 2017 and 2018, the Committee provided the Secretary with significant flexibility to provide assistance to producers suffering crop losses. The Committee notes that significant losses have occurred for blueberries, peaches, and dairy producers in calendar year 2017. The Committee encourages the Secretary to engage directly with stakeholders to resolve these issues."

On page 6, after the paragraph entitled "Rural Poverty," insert the following: "*Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.*—The Committee encourages USDA to improve eligible participants' awareness of the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program through education and outreach efforts."

On page 8, after the paragraph entitled "Performance Measures," insert the following: "*Food Waste.*—The Committee urges the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with other Federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration, to raise consumer awareness surrounding food waste. In the event that a Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison is established, the Committee encourages USDA to fund the position to support and promote Federal programs to measure and reduce the incidence of food loss and waste and increase food recovery."

On page 17, after the paragraph entitled "Greenhouse Technology Research," insert the following: "*High Performance Computing Support.* — The Committee provides an additional $1,250,000 to expand high performance computing capability to address scientific need and requires ARS to continue to collaborate with partners with the technical capacity and scientific synergy to provide cost-effective high performance computing support."

On page 18, after the paragraph entitled "Porcine Virus Research," insert the following: "*Postharvest Dairy Research.* — The Committee recognizes the importance of developing solutions to address agricultural postharvest inefficiencies to conserve limited resources and feed a growing population. The Committee encourages the development of postharvest technologies that decrease waste and improve resource use of protein, fat, and sugar in dairy processing".

On page 20, after the paragraph entitled "Bioactives and Prebiotics Used in Animal Production," insert the following: "*Centers of Excellence.* — In 2015, on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Second Morrill Act of 1890, USDA announced the establishment of three Centers of Excellence at the 1890 Land Grant Universities, which would benefit Small Farms, Ranches and Forest Landowners in high poverty areas, establish a virtual center to support the science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mathematics (STEAM) pipeline of students to

meet future workforce needs; and satisfy the nation's need in the areas of international engagement and global food security. The Committee believes that these Centers were an important and necessary commitment to the 1890 Universities and requests that the USDA in collaboration with the USDA-1890 Taskforce prepare a report for Congress within 90 days of enactment on how we can permanently establish these Centers and make them sustainable and fully functional. The Committee provides an additional $5,000,000 for the Centers for Excellence with Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)."

On page 50, after the paragraph entitled "Sewage Management," insert the following: "*Minimum Broadband Speed.* — The Committee directs the Department to continue requiring applicants to provide a minimum broadband speed that is twenty-five (25) megabits downstream and three (3) megabits upstream to every customer in the proposed funded service area for all broadband loan and grant programs."

On page 54, after the paragraph entitled "Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)," insert the following: "*Unpaid School Lunch Fees.*—The Committee is concerned with reports that some students with unpaid school lunch fees are treated unfairly and being publicly embarrassed. The Committee directs the Secretary to issue recommended standards schools may adopt to address the issue of shaming school children for unpaid school lunch fees, including standards that protect children from public embarrassment; that strongly encourage all communications about unpaid school lunch fees be directed at the parent or guardian, not the child; and that encourage schools to take additional steps to work with families falling behind in their school lunch fees."

On page 55, under the "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" header, strike the paragraph entitled "Cooperation with Fraud Investigators."

On page 56, after the paragraph entitled "SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Program," insert the following: "*SNAP Report.*—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations estimating the impact that using the low-cost food plan would have on reducing hunger among SNAP participants."

On page 58, within the paragraph entitled "Dietary Guidelines for Americans," insert "by prioritizing randomized controlled clinical trials" after "process," on the 9th line. On the 13th line, strike "may" and insert "shall, to the extent practicable,".

On page 59, after the paragraph titled "Farmer to Farmer," insert the following: "*U.S.-Central America, Mexico Cooperation.*—The Committee directs the agency to work with its counterparts in Central America and Mexico to develop an agricultural working group improving the efficiency of the inspection process, the trade supply chain, and transportation costs, among other issues. In addition, the agency shall use existing programs for academic exchanges in agriculture related fields of study in this region. The agency shall brief the Committee within 180 days of the date of enactment on current efforts in these areas."

On page 64, under the heading "Comprehensive Tobacco Framework", strike "-scale".

On page 69, after the paragraph entitled "Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy," insert the following: "*E.U.-Banned Color Additives Used in Food.*—The Committee requests a report detailing which color additives used in food have not been approved for use within the E.U. but are permitted to be sold for consumption in the U.S. The report should also list, if known, the primary reasons why the E.U. has banned any such additives."

On page 69, after the paragraph entitled "Food Contact Notification User Fees," insert the following: "*Food Date Labeling.*—The Committee recognizes that the lack of food date labeling standardization has resulted in significant consumer confusion. Because food manufacturers use a variety of food date labeling phrases, such as "freshest by" or "use by," consumers frequently throw out food that is wholesome and safe, which contributes to the country's food waste problem. The Committee encourages FDA and USDA to provide outreach and guidance to food manufacturers and retailers on food date labeling."

On page 70, after the paragraph entitled "Genomic Editing," insert the following: "*Labeling of Feminine Hygiene Products.*—The Committee is concerned by the lack of ingredient labelling requirements on menstrual hygiene products and strongly encourages the FDA to require menstrual hygiene products sold in the U.S. to list ingredients on the package."

On page 72, strike the paragraph entitled "Olive Oil Standards of Identity," and insert the following: "*Olive Oil Standards of Identity.*—Because of the substantial interest in and consumption of olive oil throughout the United States, driven in part by the significant scientifically-confirmed health benefits of these oils, and the fact that the United States has become a globally-important producer of olive oils, especially extra virgin olive oil, the Committee directs the FDA to establish a separate U.S. Standard of Identity for different grades of olive oil (e.g. refined, virgin and extra virgin) and pomace oils.

The Committee is particularly concerned with the number of different oil state standards for olive oils in the U.S. Because the health benefits of olive oil vary by grade, it is important to establish a uniform set of the standards to better inform and protect consumers. Extra virgin olive oil is the highest quality of olive oil and provides the greatest health benefits for consumers. The FDA is directed to consult and meet with domestic extra virgin olive oil representatives and olive oil representatives in developing a science-based Standard of Identity for extra virgin olive oil and olive oil, respectively, best suited to ensure the integrity of these products for U.S. consumers."

On page 74, after the paragraph entitled, "Stem Cell Treatment and Storage," insert the following: "*Syringe Sterility.*—The Committee is pleased that the FDA has finalized guidance addressing the repackaging and compounding of biologics, a critical step toward ensuring that patients receive safe drugs. It remains concerned, however, that while the guidance establishes procedures to ensure the sterility and stability of the drug itself, it does little to address the sterility of the delivery mechanism of the drug or the packaging in which the drug will be delivered to the patient. This is particularly concerning for biologics that are injected into a closed system, such as the spine or the eye, where infection cannot easily be fought by the immune system. Therefore, as the FDA revisits the development of Good Manufacturing Practices for compounded drugs, the Committee strongly encourages the adoption of guidelines

that mimic regulations governing the sterility of the container and packaging of sterile injectable biologics that currently apply to biologics manufacturers. For example, at 21 C.F.R. 200.50, the FDA requires that "containers of ophthalmic preparations be sterile" and "packaged so as to maintain sterility until the package is opened." While there is always a risk of adverse outcomes when drugs are repackaged or compounded, that risk is significantly increased when those drugs are biologics, and therefore, all necessary precautions should be taken by the FDA to reduce those risks."

Amd # 2 offered

G:\CMTE\AG\15\APPROPS\AMEND_003.XML

Agriculture Lee #1

adopted V.V.

AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Page 2, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)".

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)".

Page 100, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $1,000,000)".

☒

Amend #3 offered. Cole/Bishop

A.C. 29-20 adopted

AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

OFFERED BY Mr. Cole / Mr. Bishop

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule with the regulation identifier number 0910-AG38 published by the Food and Drug Administration in the Federal Register on May 10, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 28974) with respect to traditional large and premium cigars. For the purposes of this section, the term "traditional large and premium cigar" means—

(1) any roll of tobacco that is wrapped in 100 percent leaf tobacco, is bunched with 100 percent tobacco filler, contains no filter, tip, or non-tobacco mouthpiece, weighs at least 6 pounds per 1,000 count, and—

(A) has a 100 percent leaf tobacco binder and is hand rolled;

(B) has a 100 percent leaf tobacco binder and is made using human hands to lay the leaf

tobacco wrapper or binder onto only one machine that bunches, wraps, and caps each individual cigar; or

(C) has a homogenized tobacco leaf binder and is made in the United States using human hands to lay each 100 percent leaf tobacco wrapper individually onto a single machine that bunches, wraps, and caps each individual cigar on such single machine and makes no more than 15 cigars per minute; and

(2) is not a cigarette or a little cigar (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (3) and (11), respectively, of section 900 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387)).

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may, for cigars and pipe tobacco, and components and parts thereof, which the Secretary of Health and Human Services by regulation under section 901(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387a(b)) deems to be subject to chapter IX of such Act, be used to treat any reference in sections 905(j) or 910(a) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 387e(j), 387j(a)) to February 15, 2007, as other than a reference to April 25, 2014, the date of the regulation under which tobacco prod-

ucts were proposed to be deemed subject to the requirements of such chapter pursuant to section 901(b) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 387a(b)).

SEC. ____. (a) Section 905(j)(1)(A)(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387e(j)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting "or to a tobacco product subject to an order that the Secretary has issued to such person under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i) of section 910," after "as of February 15, 2007,".

(b) Section 910(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387j(a)(2)(A)(i)(I)) is amended by inserting ", or to a tobacco product subject to an order that the Secretary has issued to such person under subsection (c)(1)(A)(i)" after "as of February 15, 2007".

SEC. ____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish a product standard for vapor products pursuant to section 907 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387g) to include but not be limited to—

(1) characterizing flavors; and

(2) batteries.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule pursuant to such notice.

SEC. ____. (a) A vapor product shall be deemed to be misbranded under section 903(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387c(a)) if the advertising with respect to the vapor product is disseminated by a manufacturer, distributor, or retailer of the product in a newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication (including any publication of periodic or limited distribution) other than an adult publication.

(b)(1) A retailer may only sell any vapor product in a direct face-to-face exchange without the assistance of any electronic or mechanical device (such as a vending machine).

(2) This subsection shall not apply with respect to sales of vapor products conducted through—

(A) mail-order; or

(B) a vending machine or self-service display if, with respect to the facility in which such vending machine or display is located, the retailer of such products ensures that no person under 18 years of age is present or permitted to enter.

(3) A violation of this section is deemed to constitute a violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act relating to a tobacco product for purposes of section 303(f)(9) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 333(f)(9)).

(c)(1) Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate final regulations to require that the labeling of vapor products contain—

(A) the phrase "Keep Out of Reach of Children";

(B) the phrase "Underage Sale Prohibited"; and

(C) an accurate statement of the nicotine content of the vapor product.

(2) A vapor product whose label is in violation of the regulations required by paragraph (1) is deemed to be misbranded under section 903 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387c).

(d)(1) Every person who owns or operates an establishment in any State engaged in the retail sale of a vapor product shall register that establishment with the Secretary of Health and Human Services within the later of 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, or 30 days after first engaging in such retail sale.

(2) The requirements of this subsection do not apply with respect to any establishment subject to an active registration under—

(A) any State law relating to tobacco products; or

(B) section 905 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387e).

(3) The Secretary shall make available for inspection, to any person so requesting, any registration filed under this section.

(c) In this section:

(1) The term "adult publication" means any newspaper, magazine, periodical, or other publication—

(A) whose readers younger than 18 years of age constitute 15 percent or less of the total readership as measured by competent and reliable survey evidence; and

(B) that is read by fewer than 2 million persons younger than 18 years of age as measured by competent and reliable survey evidence.

(2) The terms "label" and "labeling" have the meanings given to such terms in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(3) The term "tobacco product" has the meaning given to such term in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(4) The term "vapor product"—

(A) means any non-combustible product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce vapor from nicotine in a solution or other form;

(B) includes any electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device, and any vapor cartridge or other container of nicotine in a solution or other form; and

(C) does not include any product regulated as a drug or device by the Food and Drug Administration under chapter V of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 351 et. seq.).

SEC. ____. The Pro-Children Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 6083) is amended—

(1) by striking "smoking" each place it appears in subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting "smoking or use of vapor products"; and

(2) by striking "smoking" each place it appears in subsection (e) and inserting "smoking or vapor product".

SEC. ____. Section 906(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387f(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) AGE VERIFICATION FOR REMOTE SALES.—A delivery seller of vapor products—

"(A) shall not sell, deliver, or cause to be delivered any vapor products to a person under the minimum age required for the legal sale or purchase of vapor products, as determined by the applicable law at the place of delivery; and

"(B) shall not accept a delivery sale order from a person without—

"(i) obtaining the full name, birth date, and residential address of that person; and

"(ii) verifying the information provided in clause (i), through the use of a commercially available database or aggregate of databases, consisting primarily of data from government sources, that are regularly used by government and businesses for the purpose of age and identity

verification and authentication, to ensure that the purchaser is at least the minimum age required for the legal sale or purchase of vapor products, as determined by the applicable law at the place of delivery.

"(C) LIMITATION.—No database being used for age and identity verification under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be in the possession or under the control of the delivery seller, or be subject to any changes or supplementation by the delivery seller.

"(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

"(i) The term 'delivery sale' means a sale of vapor products in which—

"(I) the consumer submits the order for the sale by means of a telephone or other method of voice transmission, the mails, or the Internet or other online service, or the seller is otherwise not in the physical presence of the buyer when the request for purchase or order is made; or

"(II) the vapor products are delivered to the buyer by common carrier, private delivery service, or other

method of remote delivery, or the seller is not in the physical presence of the buyer when the buyer obtains possession of the vapor products.

"(ii) The term 'delivery seller' means a person who makes a delivery sale, or provides an online marketplace to facilitate a delivery sale.

"(iii) The term 'online marketplace' means an online portal or other digital or similar platform that facilitates the sale of products to consumers, through retail sale, auction, or similar transactions.".

SEC. ____. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, that includes a plan of action with respect to the development and operation of the Youth Vapor Product Education, Prevention, and Enforcement Program.

SEC. ____. (a) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall conduct a study on preventing the use of electronic

nicotine delivery systems (referred to in this section as "ENDS") by youth. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) the potential costs and benefits of using, and requiring the use of, biometric security measures in ENDS—

(A) during premarket development;

(B) at the time of sale; and

(C) during postmarket use;

(2) the effectiveness of such biometric security measures in preventing usage by youth of ENDS;

(3) the potential costs and benefits of requiring such biometric security measures for sales of ENDS made through mail delivery and via the Internet; and

(4) alternative technologies that may assist in preventing usage by youth of ENDS.

(b) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall provide a report on the results of the study under subsection (a) to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

In the first paragraph under the heading "Food and Drug Administration, Salaries and Expenses", insert before "*Provided further,* That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior ap-

proval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress" the following: "*Provided further,* That $50,000,000 of the amount allocated to the Center for Tobacco Products from tobacco product user fees authorized by section 919 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act in fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, shall be used by the Secretary to develop, establish, and operate a Youth Vapor Product Education, Prevention, and Enforcement Program, to include consumer outreach and education targeted to the use of vapor products by minors, optional grants to school systems, nonprofit public health entities, and other qualifying entities for programs and initiatives aimed at youth vapor product and tobacco product prevention, and enforcement of provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act relating to youth access to vapor products:".

AG

Amend #5 offered

AG APPROPS (YOUNG)

Amendment to Agriculture Appropriations Bill

Offered by Mr. Young of Iowa

adopted V.V.

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____ The establishment of any affirmative disclosure requirements relating to the genetic engineering of salmon or other finfish, or foods containing genetically engineered salmon or other finfish shall be made in accordance with the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (7 U.S.C. 1639) and any rules or regulations implementing that Act as promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Amend #6 offered

G:\M\15\SIMPSO\SIMPSO_025.XML

adopted v.v.

(Ag) Simpson Pingree

AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL OFFERED BY MR. SIMPSON OF IDAHO

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the matter following the first comma in the second sentence of footnote (c) of section 220.8(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to the substitution of vegetables for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

☒

AG

G:\M\15\MISC\JH\APPROPS\AG19AM_003.XML

Amend #8 offered

Newhouse/Bishop #1

adopted V.V.

AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2019

OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE OF WASHINGTON

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. ____. Section 9 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) NONDISCLOSURE.—Any supplemental nutrition assistance program transaction data that contains information specific to a retail food store, a retail food store location, a person, or other entity shall be exempt from the disclosure requirements of section 552(a) of title 5 of the United States Code pursuant to section 552(b)(3) of title 5 of the United States Code.".

☒

AM 0

Amend #10 offered

Harris

Agriculture, Rep. Harris

adopted V.V.

Amendment to the Report Accompanying the FY 2019 Agriculture Appropriations bill offered by Rep. Andy Harris, MD.

Page 73 of the Report, after "payer determinations" add a new paragraph:

"Patient Safety and Adverse Events related to Attorney Advertisements:

The Committee directs the FDA to explore adverse event reports linked to attorney or lead generators advertisements for anticoagulant, antiplatelet, blood pressure medications, anti-hyperglycemic agents used to manage HbA1c in type 2 diabetes or antipsychotic products. The agency is directed to share their results with the FTC and submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations within 120 days of enactment. The Committee also directs FDA and the FTC to collaborate to address patient safety concerns presented by attorney and lead generators advertisements using their respective authorities and expertise."

Amend #11 offered
adopted V, V,

AMENDMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE OF WASHINGTON

At the appropriate place in the Committee Report, insert the following:

"*Alleviation of H-2A program regulatory burdens.* In order to reduce the burden to employers of communicating across multiple agencies with disparate processes and overlapping missions, the Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and Secretary of State, and in cooperation with U.S. Digital Services, to oversee the establishment and operation of a cloud-based, online platform through which agricultural employers will complete the H-2A petition and certification process. Such a platform shall handle employer input of all information required for the processing and adjudication of an H-2A petition and the certification process; provide secure, authenticated, and authorized agency analyst interactions; and provide transparency throughout the process to employers regarding the status of their petitions.".

☒